



03500.018031

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Takako YAMAGUCHI et al.) : Examiner: Unassigned
Application No.: 10/779,786) : Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: February 18, 2004) :
For: PHOTOMASK FOR NEAR-FIELD) :
EXPOSURE, NEAR-FIELD EXPOSURE) :
METHOD, AND NEAR-FIELD EXPOSURE) :
APPARATUS) :
March 11, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. A copy of the Japanese patent document is also enclosed.

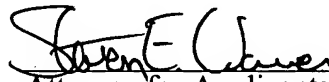
Japanese patent document number 11-145051 and U.S. Patent No. 6,171,730 are discussed on page 2 of the specification. Japanese patent document number 11-145051 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,171,730.

Applicants request that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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SEW/eab



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| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.018031 | | APPLICATION NO. 10/779,786 | |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | APPLICANT Takako YAMAGUCHI et al. | | | |
| LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | FILING DATE February 18, 2004 | | GROUP Unassigned | |
| March 11, 2004 | | | | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS SUBCLASS FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | US-6,632,593 B2 | 10/14/2003 | Yamaguchi et al. | 430 322 |
| | | US-6,559,926 B2 | 05/06/2003 | Yamaguchi et al. | 355 53 |
| | | US-6,187,482 | 02/13/2001 | Kuroda et al. | 430 5 |
| | | US-6,628,392 B2 | 09/30/2003 | Kuroda et al. | 356 400 |
| | | US-6,171,730 B1 | 01/09/2001 | Kuroda et al. | 430 5 |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS SUBCLASS TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | 11-145051 | 05/28/1999 | Japan | Abstract |
| | | | | | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.